

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A method of streaming media to multiple clients,
2 comprising:
 - receiving a request to stream media from a media track to a first client;
 - 4 extracting a set of metadata from the media track, wherein said metadata facilitates identification and retrieval of the media from the media track;
 - 6 storing said extracted set of metadata in a memory;
 - 8 streaming the media to the first client in a first stream while referring to said stored metadata; and
 - 10 streaming the media to a second client in a second stream while referring to said stored metadata.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 maintaining a first file descriptor for retrieving the media from the media track for said first stream; and
 - 4 maintaining a second file descriptor for retrieving the media from the media track for said second stream.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the media track is a track
2 of a live media event.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the media track is a track
2 of a pre-recorded media program.
5. (Original) A method of using a single set of media metadata to
2 facilitate streaming the media to multiple clients, comprising:
 - receiving a request to stream media from a first media track to a first client,
 - 4 wherein the first media track also includes metadata corresponding to the media;
 - invoking a track module configured to maintain one copy of said metadata in a
6 memory;

operating a first track handler to stream the media to the first client, wherein said
8 first track handler accesses said metadata to facilitate said streaming;
receiving a request to stream the media to a second client before said streaming of
10 the media to the first client is terminated; and
operating a second track handler to stream the media to the second client, wherein
12 said second track handler accesses said metadata to facilitate said streaming;
wherein said metadata is configured to facilitate retrieval of the media from the
14 first media track.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said operating a first track
2 handler comprises using a first file descriptor to retrieve the media from the first file
track; and
4 said operating a second track handler comprises using a second file descriptor to
retrieve the media from the first file track.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said operating a first track
2 handler comprises:
establishing a first set of references to said metadata;
4 using said first set of references to identify a first portion of the media to be
streamed to the first client for a first time index; and
6 using said first set of references to locate said first media portion in the first media
track.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said operating a second
2 track handler comprises:
establishing a second set of references to said metadata;
4 using said second set of references to identify a second media portion to be
streamed to the second client for a second time index; and
6 using said second set of references to locate said second media portion in the first
media track.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said first set of references
2 and said second set of references are used to access said metadata simultaneously.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 removing said metadata from the memory after said first stream and said second
stream are terminated.

11. (Original) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of streaming
media to multiple clients, the method comprising:
4 receiving a request to stream media from a media track to a first client;
extracting a set of metadata from the media track, wherein said metadata
6 facilitates identification and retrieval of the media from the media track;
storing said extracted set of metadata in a memory;
8 streaming the media to the first client in a first stream while referring to said
stored metadata; and
10 streaming the media to a second client in a second stream while referring to said
stored metadata.

12. (Original) A computer readable storage medium containing a data
2 structure configured for facilitating the simultaneous streaming of media from a media
track to multiple clients, the data structure comprising:
4 a set of metadata configured to associate time indices of the media track with
corresponding portions of the media, and to locate said corresponding portions within the
6 media track;
wherein said set of metadata is simultaneous accessed by each of multiple client
8 stream handlers, wherein each stream handler is associated with a different client, to
facilitate retrieval of different portions of the media for streaming to their respective
10 clients.

13. (Original) An apparatus for streaming media to clients, comprising:

2 a first track of a media program stored on a first storage device, the first media
track comprising:

4 media; and

 metadata configured to facilitate access to the media;

6 a first memory;

8 a set of track handle modules, wherein each of said track handle modules is
configured to facilitate streaming the media to a different client; and

10 a track module configured to store said metadata in said first memory for shared
access by said track handle modules;

12 wherein said track handle modules access said metadata to identify portions of the
media and locate said portions on the first storage device.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each of said track
2 handle modules is allocated a separate file descriptor for retrieving the media from the
first storage device.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each of said track
2 handle modules simultaneously accesses said metadata in said first memory.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said simultaneous
2 accesses to said metadata are configured to identify different portions of the media.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said media portions are
2 associated with time indices within said first media track and said metadata is configured
to identify, for a given time index, said associated media portion.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said metadata is further
2 configured to identify, for a given media portion, a location on said first storage device at
which said given media portion is stored.